

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human being for treating dermatitis comprising administering an ingestible composition comprising L-carnitine and at least one component having an ~~anti-oxidate~~anti-oxidative activity to a patient in need of same, wherein the component exhibiting an anti-oxidative activity is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; vitamin C; carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and ginsenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; and combinations thereof; and wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of the component having an anti-oxidative activity administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the composition increases the lipid secretion in the sebum and/or for producing a protective sebum layer on the skin.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the patient has ulcerative dermatitis.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A method for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human for preventing the onset or incidence of ulcers associated with diabetes, of circulation disturbances, of physical, chemical or microbial noxae or of eczema, comprising the steps of administering to a patient at risk of ulcers an ingestible composition comprising L-carnitine and a component having an anti-oxidative activity, wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of the component having an anti-oxidative activity administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A method for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human being for a reduction of itching comprising the steps of administering to a patient that is itching due to a skin condition, an ingestible composition comprising L-carnitine and a component having anti-oxidative activity, wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of the component having an anti-oxidative activity administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for making an ingestible composition for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human being, comprising the step of using L-carnitine and at least one component having anti-oxidative activity to make the composition, wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of the component having an anti-oxidative activity administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, for producing a protective sebum layer on the skin.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6 for reducing dry skin or itching.

Claims 9-11 (canceled):

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ingestable composition contains a source of fat.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the fat comprises alpha-linolenic acid.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein said source of fat is selected from the group consisting of an animal fat, ~~and~~ a vegetable fat, and combinations thereof.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the amount of said source of fat in the composition is at least 0.1 % by weight on basis of the total weight of the composition.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ingestable composition is selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, ~~and~~ a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A method for the stimulation of the lipid metabolism in the skin of an animal or a human being comprising the step of administering a composition comprising L-carnitine and at least a component having an anti-oxidative activity and being selected from the group consisting of ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and ginsenosides and natural sources thereof; cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine or natural sources thereof; ~~or mixtures thereof and combinations thereof~~; or being selected from the group consisting of mixtures of vitamin E or derivatives thereof with two or three of vitamin C or derivatives thereof; grape seed extract; and-cysteine,-; and combinations thereof, said ingestable composition selected from the group consisting of a food or a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, or a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof, and wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of the component having an anti-oxidative activity administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An ingestible composition selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritional complete pet or human food, and a dietary supplement comprising L-carnitine and at least a component having an anti-oxidative activity and being selected from the group consisting of ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and ginsenosides and natural sources thereof; cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine or natural sources thereof; ~~or mixtures thereof and combinations thereof~~; or being selected from the group consisting of mixtures of vitamin E or derivatives thereof with two or three of vitamin C or derivatives thereof; grape seed extract; and cysteine; and combinations thereof, and wherein the amount of L-carnitine administered daily is from about 1 mg to about 1 g per kg of body weight and the amount of the component having an anti-oxidative activity administered daily is from about 0.025 mg to about 250 mg per kg of body weight.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein the component exhibiting an anti-oxidative activity is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; vitamin C; carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and ginsenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; ~~or mixtures thereof and combinations thereof.~~

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method according to claim 5, wherein the component exhibiting an anti-oxidative activity is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; vitamin C; carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and ginsenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; ~~or mixtures thereof~~ and combinations thereof.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the component exhibiting an anti-oxidative activity is selected from the group consisting of vitamin E; vitamin C; carotenoids; ubiquinones; tea catechins; coffee extracts containing polyphenols and/or diterpenes; ginkgo biloba extracts; grape or grape seed extracts rich in proanthocyanidins; spice extracts; soy extracts containing isoflavones, phytoestrogens; ursodeoxycholic acid; ursolic acid; ginseng and ginsenosides and natural sources thereof; a source of thiols, preferably lipoic acid, cysteine, cystine, methionine, S-adenosyl-methionine, taurine, glutathione or natural sources thereof; ~~or mixtures thereof~~ and combinations thereof.

Claims 22-30 (canceled):

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein the ingestable composition contains a source of fat.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the ingestable composition contains a source of fat.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6, wherein the ingestable composition contains a source of fat.

Claim 34 (canceled):

Claim 35 (currently amended): The method according to claim 4, wherein the ingestable composition is selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, ~~and~~ a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The method according to claim 5, wherein the ingestable composition is selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, ~~and~~ a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the ingestable composition is selected from the group consisting of a medicament, a food, a functional food, a nutritionally complete pet or human food, ~~and~~ a dietary supplement, and combinations thereof.

Claim 38 (canceled):